

**REMARKS**

Claims 52 and 56-61 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 52, 57, and 60 are amended, and claims 53, 103, 105, 107, and 109 are canceled. Claims 54, 55, 62-102, 104, 106, 108, and 110-135 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to non-elected inventions.

**I. Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph**

Claims 60 and 107 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Office Action contends that it is not clear whether both the magnet body and the first layer of the protective layer have the same rare-earth element.

By this Response, claim 60 is amended to delineate that "the rare-earth element in the magnet body and the first layer of the protective layer is neodymium." Claim 60 is believed to recite the invention with the degree of precision and particularity required by the statute. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully solicited.

**II. Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103**

A. Claims 52, 53, 56, 60, 61, 103, 107, and 109 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hasegawa (USPN 5,876,518).

The rejection is moot as to canceled claims 53, 103, 107, and 109.

By this Amendment, independent claim 52 is amended to delineate, *inter alia*:

...  
the protective layer having a first layer covering the magnet body and containing a rare-earth element, and a second layer covering the first layer and containing substantially no rare-earth element and containing Fe.

As delineated in claim 52, the second layer of the protective layer contains substantially no rare-earth element and containing Fe. In contrast, Hasegawa discloses a corrosion-resistant film layer. This corrosion-resistant film layer may not contain a rare-earth element. However, this layer also does NOT contain "Fe" because the layer is made of at

least one element selected from the group consisting of Zn, Cr, Ni, Cu, Sn, Pb, Cd, Ti, W, Co, Al, and Ta (see col. 7, lines 50-56).

It is also described in Hasegawa that the R-T-B-based permanent magnet has a rare earth element-rich layer, and the corrosion-resistant layer is free from deterioration of magnetic properties at a temperature of 120°C or higher. However, as noted above, the corrosion-resistant layer in Hasegawa is different from the second layer delineated in claim 52. Further, Hasegawa does not disclose that the effect of high corrosion resistance is obtained by comprising the specific first and second layers delineated in claim 52. Accordingly, in view of the above, independent claim 52 is patentable over Hasegawa

Because claims 56, 60, and 61 depend from independent claim 52, they are patentable over Hasegawa for at least the reason(s) discussed above, as well as for the additional features they recite. Therefore, reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of claims 52, 56, 60, and 61 are respectfully solicited.

**B.** Claims 57-59 and 105 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hasegawa, as applied to claim 52, in view of Yamamoto (US 2002/0007875).

The rejection is moot as to canceled claim 105.

Yamamoto does NOT disclose or suggest a permanent magnet where a certain protective layer is formed on a magnet body. More specifically, Yamamoto does not disclose the second layer containing Fe, as delineated in independent claim 52. Therefore, Yamamoto does not remedy the deficiency of Hasegawa.


Because claims 57-59 depend from independent claim 52, they are patentable over Hasegawa and Yamamoto for at least the reason(s) discussed above, as well as for the additional features they recite. Therefore, reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of claims 57-59 are respectfully solicited.

**III. Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

Edward J. Wise  
Registration No. 34,523

JAO:EXW/nlp

Date: April 13, 2010

**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 320850**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

**DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE  
AUTHORIZATION**

Please grant any extension  
necessary for entry of this filing;  
Charge any fee due to our  
Deposit Account No. 15-0461